CITY OF **VANCOUVER**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date:	January 29, 2007
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Meeting Date:	February 15, 2007

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

FROM: Director of Social Planning in Consultation with the Vancouver Food Policy Council

SUBJECT: Second Annual Food Policy Progress Report

RECOMMENDATION

A. THAT Council receive the following for information:

a) update on the work of Food Policy staff as attached in APPENDIX A;
b) report on the work of the Vancouver Food Policy Council as attached in APPENDIX B;
c) Vancouver Recovered Food Assessment as prepared by the Vancouver Food Policy Council as attached in APPENDIX C;
d) Vancouver Food Charter: Context and Background as prepared by the Vancouver Food Policy Council as attached in APPENDIX D.

B. FURTHER THAT Council adopt the Vancouver Food Charter as prepared by the Vancouver Food Policy Council as attached in APPENDIX E.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

Food Policy

On July 8, 2003, Council approved a motion supporting the development of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver.

On December 11, 2003, Council approved the proposed Action Plan for Creating a Just and Sustainable Food System for the City of Vancouver (Food Action Plan). A copy of the proposed Food Action Plan can be found at: http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20031209/rr1.htm

On March 11, 2004, Council approved the formation of a multi-stakeholder Food Policy Council. In order to support the work of the Food Policy Council and other related City work, Council approved funding for staff to realize the work proposed in the Action Plan for Creating a Just and Sustainable Food System for the City of Vancouver (Food Action Plan).

Sustainability Policy

On April 23, 2002, the City adopted a formal position, definition and principles on sustainability to guide the City's work considering social, economic and social impacts.

On May 24, 2005, Council further approved a definition of Social Sustainability to be used for developing the social component of the City's sustainability objectives.

On September 20, 2005, Council approved the development of a Social Development Plan for the City of Vancouver, which is aimed at enhancing social sustainability for all of Vancouver's residents.

PURPOSE

This report informs Council on the work of Social Planning Food Policy staff (APPENDIX A), as well as the Vancouver Food Policy Council work (APPENDIX B). In addition, the report brings forward for Council's information the Vancouver Recovered Food Assessment as prepared by the Vancouver Food Policy Council (APPENDIX C); a Context and Background document related to the Food Charter as prepared by the Vancouver Food Policy Council (APPENDIX D); and a Food Charter for Council's adoption (APPENDIX E).

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Since the approval of the Food Action Plan in December 2003, progress has been made on a number of fronts that have resulted in benefits to our citizens. These include improvements in the areas of social, environmental and economic sustainability, community development and environmental health. The City of Vancouver has begun to emerge as a national leader in municipal food system planning as an extension of the City's commitment to sustainable development.

On October 20, 2005, City Council received the first progress report from Social Planning and the VFPC. A copy of the 2005 report can be found at:

http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20051020/documents/pe1.pdf

The October, 2005, report included an update on the activities of Social Planning staff and the VFPC, as well as a summary of the VFPC's vision, mandate, membership and role in facilitating collaboration between Vancouver citizens and local government. This report details the activities of Social Planning and the VFPC from that date to the present.

1 Social Planning

A detailed listing of concurrent food policy work and future directions as found in APPENDIX A. Work over the last year includes partnerships and collaboration with the Vancouver Food Policy Council, other City departments, and community partners on urban agriculture, education, outreach and civic engagement, and food access.

The update on staff also includes directions for food policy in 2007.

2 Vancouver Food Policy Council

A detailed listing of work priorities and future directions identified by the VFPC as found in APPENDIX B. Priority areas from 2005 to the present include an institutional food purchasing policy for public facilities; strategies to increase access to groceries for residents of Vancouver; strategies to recover, reuse, and recycle food; and a Food Charter for the City of Vancouver.

The VFPC update also includes commentary on the Triple "R" Review, concurrent food policy work by the VFPC in collaboration with Food Policy staff and community partners, and future directions for the Vancouver Food Policy Council.

2.1 Vancouver Recovered Food Assessment

Following the identification of strategies to recover, re-use, and recycle food as one of four priorities for the VFPC, the "waste sub-committee" completed the Vancouver Recovered Food Assessment Report as found in APPENDIX C. The report presents an overview on food recovery practiced in institutions, retail, restaurants, food processing facilities, and charitable food providers. It also includes an inedible food scan featuring on-site residential composting with an overview of the impact of food waste on the environment and legislation for donating food for redistribution.

2.2 Vancouver Food Charter: Context and Background

Many Canadian governments are responding to the growing need for integrated food policy development and food systems planning at the local level. One of the ways they are doing this is by creating municipal food charters.

Municipal governments in Canada that currently have food charters include: Toronto, Sudbury, Ottawa, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Kamloops, and Merritt. The Capital Regional District (Greater Victoria, BC) and the Province of Manitoba are currently exploring the adoption of regional food charters.

The background information as found in APPENDIX D includes information on food policy in Canadian cities, food policy in the City of Vancouver, examples of issues addressed by a food charter, and opportunities for partnerships.

2.3 Vancouver Food Charter

For the past year, the Vancouver Food Policy Council has been engaging relevant community organizations and individuals to ensure that the proposed Charter, as found in APPENDIX E, represents an inclusive vision. The Vancouver Food Charter presents a vision for a food system which benefits our community and the environment. It sets out the City of Vancouver's commitment to the development of a coordinated municipal food policy, and animates our community's engagement and participation in conversations and actions related to food security in Vancouver.

The Vancouver Food Charter includes a vision for the city with five principles to guide our food system: community economic development, ecological health, social justice, collaboration and participation, and celebration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The City of Vancouver's leadership in Food Policy reflects a growing trend towards recognizing Food Policy and Food Policy Councils as among the more dynamic areas of innovation in city governments across North America.

This report recommends that Council receive this report, the report on Social Planning staff, the progress report of the VFPC, the Vancouver Recovered Food Assessment, and the adoption of the Vancouver Food Charter as an inclusive community vision providing principles and guidelines that reflect the City's commitment to a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver.

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Second Annual Social Planning Report on Food Policy

January 2007

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1. Update on the work of Social Planning staff in collaboration with the Vancouver Food Policy Council, other City departments, and community partners:

1.1 *Food Production: Urban Agriculture*

Some of the recent activities related to the enhancement of Urban Agriculture include:

- Development of Urban Agriculture Guidelines for inclusion in the Green Building Strategy. This includes a review of opportunities to facilitate the creation of roof-top, balcony, and podium resident-shared gardens in private developments for "part 3 buildings" (buildings used for major occupancies classified as assembly occupancies, care or detention occupancies, high hazard industrial occupancies AND for all other major occupancies classification where building area exceeds 600 sq.m or exceeding 3 storey in building height;
- The completion of Phase One of an inventory of under-utilized City-owned properties (other than Park space) to support food growth and community shared gardens;
- Active participation by Social Planning staff in design strategies for new developments and re-zonings to include Urban Agriculture in major developments (Southeast False Creek and East Fraserlands);
- Creation of an expanded food producing and education garden near the City Hall Childcare Centre with links to the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation. The garden was productive throughout the summer of 2006. The garden is part of their daily programming for children aged 3 - 5 years old. Food harvested from the garden has been used for snacks. Excess produce was donated to the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House for meal programs and Community Kitchens;
- City Council endorsement of draft operational guidelines and the development of new community gardens in Mount Pleasant, Kitsilano and Arbutus Ridge, utilizing funds from the Community Amenity Contribution (May 15, 2006);
- Including Vancouver's urban agriculture in the World Urban Forum 2006 with a panel of elected officials from four cities around the world, including Councillor Peter Ladner, in a session entitled "Green and Productive Cities: Innovative Municipal Governance Contributing to Millennium Development Goals". The City also participated in the coordination of an urban agriculture tour for WUF delegates and Vancouver City Councillors.

1.2. Partnerships and Collaborations

- Social Planning has continued its partnership with the City's Sustainability Group to collaborate on initiatives and identify emerging opportunities to promote local food system development, such as participation in the Green Building Strategy and contributing relevant material to its "One Day" newsletter.

- Staff have also been involved in the coordination of the last four sub-phases of "My Own Backyard" (MOBY) Community Garden project at East 11th and Commercial Drive. MOBY is a joint project between TransLink, City of Vancouver and the My Own Backyard Community

Association. For Phases 2 and 3: children's playground and greenway, staff have been working in collaboration with CityPlans, Park Board and Greenways.

1.3. Education, Outreach, and Civic Engagement

Some of the recent activities involving Education, Outreach, and Civic Engagement, include:

- As a result of the city's commitment to a just and sustainable food system, Vancouver was selected to host the joint 4th annual Food Secure Canada/Securité Alimentaire Canada meeting and 10th annual Community Food Security Coalition conference "*Bridging Borders toward Food Security*" in October, 2006.
- With the efforts of more than 50 community volunteers the conference educated citizens about the range of local, national and international community-based food security initiatives, and provided an opportunity for networking and information sharing.
- The conference was attended by 900 community, non-profit, private sector, non-government and governmental personnel representing 11 Canadian provinces and territories, 37 US states, and seven additional countries, such as Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador, South Korea, Kenya, Ireland and Australia.
- The conference was twice the size of CFSC's previously largest event held in Seattle in 2001.
- Delegates from Vancouver made up 16% of the total attendees, showing strong interest in work of the Vancouver Food Policy Council as well as work from around North America
- Social Planning staff and community volunteers developed nine individual tours to highlight successful food security efforts including: Community Gardens, Farmers Markets, City Farmer, UBC Farm, The Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden, Carnegie Centre, The Dug-Out, Chinatown, Granville Island, Mole Hill, and three successful small scale food enterprises such as Potluck Café, Small Potatoes Urban Delivery and The Cook Studio Café;
- Staff also collaborated with community agencies to present workshops on Food Charters, Food Policy Councils, community urban agricultural initiatives, the City of Vancouver's agricultural initiatives, urban Aboriginal programs, fruit tree harvesting projects, and community food assessments;
- Collaboration with the City Contracting Specialist (Ethical Purchasing) in the delivery of a City Learn course on ethical purchasing. The purpose of the course is to educate staff involved in the decisions or recommendations as to where their department or Branch should be buying agricultural products, clothing, uniforms, or apparel items. Social Planning staff contribute to the food-related aspects of the course;
- Continued development of an enhanced website, weekly electronic bulletin, and quarterly newsletter featuring updates on the VFPC, work of Social Planning staff, community information, and general food system information as an education and networking resource.

1.4. Food Access

- Social Planning has worked with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's "Community Food Action Initiative" to develop a report on Indicators of Food Insecurity and Action Plan in Vancouver. The report builds on the work of the Forum of Research Connections' Vancouver Food System Assessment. The Vancouver Food System Assessment can be found at: http://vancouver.ca/foodpolicy/tools/pdf/vanfoodassessrpt.pdf

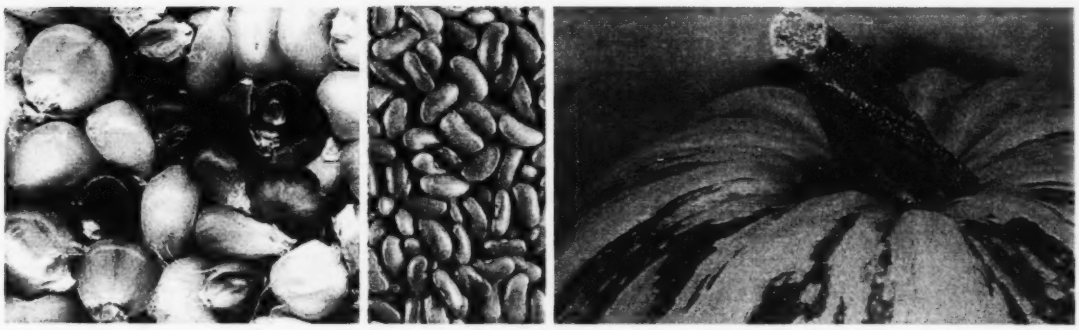
- Staff support has also been provided to nine Vancouver Neighbourhood Houses for the "Plant-A-Row for the Community" program. The program teaches gardening skills and encourages urban gardeners to plant extra food and donate it to their local Neighbourhood House. Garden fresh produce donated to Neighbourhood Houses go directly into their pre-school, after-school, youth, single parent, immigrant and senior programs.

2. Directions for Food Policy in Vancouver in 2007

- The 2,010 food producing garden plots by 2010 initiative. Strategies are being developed for inter-departmental and external partnerships to add the additional 2,010 food producing plots to the 950 that currently exist in Vancouver's community gardens.

Other important food related initiatives include:

- Funding partnerships with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to increase the number of food-producing community gardens in neighbourhoods with populations vulnerable to food insecurity, as identified in their Community Food Action Initiative Three-Year Action Plan;
- Develop city-wide urban agriculture guidelines to include edible landscaping into private and public space; opportunities for Farmers Markets in new developments; preservation of green space for community-shared gardening activities;
- Continue inventory of under-utilized publicly owned lands for potential urban agricultural uses;
- In conjunction with the Green Building Strategy Tech Team, complete citywide urban agricultural guidelines for "Part 3" and other high and medium-density buildings;
- In collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Engineering Department and the "binning" community, develop strategies to decrease food going to landfill by diverting it to charitable food providers;
- Upcoming stakeholder consultations on the Social Development Plan will include the Vancouver Food Policy Council and role of the Vancouver Food Charter as a definition of a just and sustainable food system in the development of strategic directions for the Social Development Plan;
- Continue to enhance the web presence of the Food Policy Council and work of Food Policy staff as an education and networking resource.



Second Annual Report on the Progress of the Vancouver Food Policy Council

January 2007

Second Annual Report on the Progress of the Vancouver Food Policy Council

January 2007

1. Update on the progress of the Vancouver Food Policy Council, including their priority work areas:

The Vancouver Food Policy Council identified four priority work areas in January, 2005 for their two-year plan, including:

A. Institutional Food Purchasing Policy for public facilities
B. Increasing Access to Groceries for residents of Vancouver
C. Food Charter for the City of Vancouver
D. Recovery, Reuse, and Recycling of Food

A. Institutional Food Purchasing Policy for Public Facilities:

Progress to date: The Institutional Food Purchasing Policy sub-committee has compiled an extensive background document highlighting best practices in other jurisdictions. Based on this document, a policy brief has been developed and circulated for feedback with City staff. The sub-committee is reviewing the feedback and determining future steps to move its agenda forward.

B. Increasing Access to Groceries for Residents of Vancouver

Progress to Date: the Access Committee supports the Vancouver Food System Assessment Report conducted by a consortium of researchers (Forum of Research Connections or FORC), and suggests that recommendations in the report be considered as objectives, activities, projects and policies for the Food Policy Council to undertake or promote. A copy of the FORC report can be found at:

www.vancouver.ca/foodpolicy/tools/pdf/vanfoodassessrpt.pdf

C. Recovery, Reuse, and Recycling of Food

Progress to Date: The Food Waste Diversion subcommittee spent several months collecting primary data on the food waste stream within the City of Vancouver, with recommendations in the following categories:

- Institutions;
- Retail and Restaurant;
- Food Processors;
- Charitable Food Providers;
- On-Site Composting - Residential;
- Food Waste & Environmental Impact;
- Foods and Legislation.

A full report of the research and recommendations for action is attached in APPENDIX C

D. Food Charter for the City of Vancouver

Progress to date: A proposed Vancouver Food Charter, (attached as APPENDIX E) has been formulated by the Food Charter sub-committee in consultation with community individuals and organizations to ensure that the Food Charter represents an inclusive community vision for a just and sustainable food system in Vancouver. It also provides principles and guidelines that reflect the City's commitment to a sustainable food system.

In 2006, the consultation process has:

- involved about 200 individuals at seven workshops and community events;
- clarified and refined the context and focus of the document;
- provided opportunities for public education and discussion on food system issues; and
- collaborated with representatives from six other Food Policy Councils from across Canada and the US to present a workshop on developing and implementing Food Charters at the Bridging Borders Toward Food Security conference in Vancouver in October, 2006.

Food charters benefit communities, decision-makers, and the environment because of food's value to people in their daily lives. Participation in discussions about the food system can activate civic engagement in a way few other issues can. Decision-makers benefit from the increased trust and public interest that result from a more engaged citizenship.

Although food charters are not typically action statements, once they are in place, they can help catalyze actions that create concrete benefits for local economies and for the environment. Supporting local agriculture and food production helps keep dollars in a community, and there are many demonstrable benefits to local economies from the local multiplier effect on food businesses and job creation.

2. Triple "R" Review

In January 2006, City Council established a Roles, Relationships and Responsibilities Review to examine aspects of the City's governance, including an assessment of criteria for and a process to review its advisory bodies. The Food Policy Council was included in that review.

In November 2006, Council approved the Food Policy Council as a Type A committee (advisory to Council) with the following mandate:

The Vancouver Food Policy Council supports the development of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver that fosters sustainable equitable food production, distribution and consumption, nutrition, community development and environmental health. The Food Policy Council provides input/advice to the city's various policy/program initiatives regarding a sustainable food system.

3. Concurrent food policy work by the Vancouver Food Policy Council in collaboration with Food Policy staff and community partners.

Urban Agriculture, Education, Outreach, and Civic Engagement

Some of the recent activities involving Urban Agriculture, Education, Outreach, and Civic Engagement, include:

- Hosting a Public Food Policy Forum in November, 2005, attended by over 100 community members as an opportunity for communication and information sharing;
- In collaboration with City Council, the Food Policy Council acts as a key partner in the motion to create 2,010 new food producing garden plots by 2010 as an Olympic legacy (May 30, 2006);
- Presentation by Food Policy Council members in four workshops at the Bridging Borders Toward Food Security conference on the following topics: food charters, Food Policy Councils, urban agricultural Initiatives, and community food assessments.

4. Future directions for the Vancouver Food Policy Council

In November 2006, the Food Policy Council held a full-day strategic planning session. The objectives gleaned from that session included the following:

- Make the 2010 community gardens a showcase for innovative approaches to community food security and economic, social and environmental sustainability;
- Obtain City Council endorsement of the Vancouver Food Charter by the end of 2007 and use the food charter as a tool to catalyze coordination of work plans with Social Planning, Office of Sustainability and other city departments around the issues of food security and sustainability in 2008;
- Position the VFPC as a bridge between the community and the City of Vancouver for community food security issues;
- Define the roles, responsibilities and relationship of the VFPC, Food Policy Staff, and Social Planning and define our relationship to City Council and other City Departments by the end of 2007.